THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS) is intended to incentivise State Government to empower Panchayats and incentivize Panchayats to be transparent and accountable in their transactions. To this end, it is proposed to operationalize PEAIS on the basis of a Devolution Index, which is being given final touches by the National Council of Applied Economic Research.

(b) The Fifth Round Table at Srinagar in October, 2004 made an initial attempt at drawing up a Devolution Index that would be fair, objective and removed from all political bias or subjective personal prejudice. The Srinagar exercise was then passed on for refinement to the National Council of Applied Economic Research. The index is expected to include all indicators covering the major areas relating to the empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions.

(c) No, Sir.

Officers going abroad on study leave

1867. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
DR. VIJAY MALLYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IAS Officers, Doctors and other Government servants who go abroad availing study leave;

(b) whether the period of study leave is accounted while considering seniority;

(c) who bears the cost of their study and who is the agency that selects or permits Government servants to undertake study abroad; and

(d) whether it is a fact that even the quarter allotted to such officers while they are abroad is retained by them in absentia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) The Central Government have given approval to 62 IAS officers to go abroad on study leave during the last five years. No centralized data is maintained in respect of Doctors and other Government Servants, as the

concerned Cadre Controlling Authorities in the Central Government are competent to grant them study leave.

(b) Study leave does not affect the senirority of an officer.

(c) The officers are paid leave salary and other allowances during the study leave. The cost of the study is generally borne by the Officers. Sometimes, the concerned universities also provide scholarship/fellowship etc. for study. There are provisions for payment of study allowances. There is also a scheme of "Partial Funding of Foreign Study" for all Group "A" officers under which financial assistance for foreign study is provided.

IAS officers are permitted to undertake study abroad by the Department of Personnel & Training on the recommendations of State Governments or the Central Ministries or Departments where they are posted. In other cases, the Cadre Controlling Authorities in the Central Ministries and Departments are competent to grant study leave.

(d) IAS officers posted in the the Centre and other Central Government officers can retain the Government accommodation while on study leave. Retention of Government accomodation by IAS officers posted in the States is governed by the rules/regulations of the respective State Governments.

Sending of IAS officers to America

1868. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sent a batch of IAS officers to American Institutes for a special training;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are considering the certificate issued by those institutes in promotions of IAS cadre;

(c) whether the Ministry is aware of our own institutes for cadre training;

(d) if so, the reasons for sending IAS officers to American Institutes;

(e) whether Government had issued Government order for sending IAS officers to America; and

(f) the reasons therefor?